

QWEST FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION COMPETITIVE SUB-GRANT PROPOSAL ASSURANCE SHEET

Project Title: Beyond Amount of Request: \$ \$9,995.00

Name of Certificated Teacher (or "lead teacher" if more than one): Sarah Thompson

Name of School currently teaching at: Middleton Middle School

District Name: Middleton School District District Number: 134

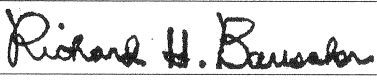



Total number of teachers involved (if more than one): _____

Approximate number of students impacted: 152 Grade level(s) impacted: 8th grade

Content area(s) impacted: Language Arts

I certify that if I receive a Qwest Foundation for education Grant –

- I agree to create a 5-minute video highlighting my project for the purposes of sharing best practices with other Idaho K-12 teachers.
- I agree to do one presentation on my project to other Idaho K-12 teachers before October 31, 2012.
- I agree to submit an electronic report to the Idaho State Department of Education before October 31, 2012.

SUPERINTENDENT NAME (PRINT) Richard Bauscher	E-MAIL rbauscher@msd134.org	TELEPHONE 208-585-3027
SIGNATURE 		
PRINCIPAL NAME (PRINT) Molly Burger	E-MAIL mburger@msd134.org	TELEPHONE 208-585-3251
SIGNATURE 		
TEACHER OR LEAD TEACHER NAME (PRINT) Sarah Thompson	E-MAIL sthompson@msd134.org	TELEPHONE 208-585-3251
SIGNATURE 		
TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR (PRINT) Mike Cozacos	E-MAIL mcozacos@msd134.org	TELEPHONE 208-585-3027
SIGNATURE 		

Submit one digital copy of your proposal (PDF format) by Thursday, November 10, 2011 (by 5 pm MST) via e-mail to:

Alex Macdonald
amacdonald@sde.idaho.gov
208.332.6955

Proposals submitted after that date and time will not be considered.

***Only one PDF file per teacher applicant will be accepted (this includes the assurance sheet).**
Faxes will not be accepted.

Abstract

Summary

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow." This quote is a guiding factor for me as an educator. I made a promise to myself and my students when I went into education. I vowed to continue to grow and avoid a stagnant classroom environment. I promised to present an engaging curriculum and to always pursue better methods of teaching and learning. When I look back over the last nineteen years of teaching middle school language arts, I see that now would be an easy time to stand still. In a world of larger classrooms, smaller budgets, and ever-growing expectations, my desire is to keep that promise I made to myself and to my students. My goal is to challenge myself and my students to go beyond our current technological limitations. I want my students to utilize technology in an interactive environment where students are motivated to engage in creation and design. Integrating multimedia activities will allow for my students to improve their writing, critical thinking, presentation skills and abilities.

The reality is that we live in a world like no other generation before us. With the technology available today, we literally have the world at our fingertips. We can travel to far off places, find statistics in a flash, view artifacts in an instant, and challenge our children to go beyond the world they know. Ronald Reagan noted, "Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation. You will have opportunities beyond anything we've ever known." My desire is to give my students opportunities beyond anything they've ever known.

Each year my students impress me with glimpses of what they can accomplish using the tools of technology. Whether we create multi-media productions for books we've read, research authors, literature or historical events, technology is an integral part of a forward moving classroom. In order to offer opportunities beyond what my students know, technology is a necessity. I dream of a multimedia classroom that is streaming, blogging, interacting, creating, and expanding beyond its walls.

Problem

Although I have access to technology, it does not allow for me to accomplish taking my students beyond our current limitations. The number of computers is an issue. Fortunately, I have 10 computers in my class room, but when you put 30 or more students in at one time, that ratio is inequitable. There are also labs available, but they have to be scheduled and shared. One of the largest frustrations with labs is that they are completely tied up for the duration of the ISAT testing window. Therefore, my students and I have limited access to technology. In addition, the type of technology available is not always conducive to the type of project my students are producing. In order to have an interactive multimedia classroom, technology must be in the hands of the students.

Research from the University of Maryland looked at the effect of multimedia upon learning. The study compared students who learned in multimedia settings versus students who learned by text alone. According to David Taylor 2008 Online Learning magazine, "In each study, researchers compared the test performance of students who learned from animation and narration versus narration alone or from text and illustrations versus text alone. There is consistent and convincing evidence that students learn more from words and pictures than they learn from words alone." (Taylor 2008). Furthermore, Taylor's analysis of the studies states, "Students who received a multimedia lesson consisting of words and pictures performed better on subsequent tests than students who received the same information in words alone. People who learned from words and graphics produced 55 percent to 121 percent more correct solutions to problems than people who learned from words alone."

Solution

My plan is to bring interactive technology into my classroom that will take my students beyond. By purchasing 16 Lenovo ThinkPad Tablets with keyboard docks, technology will be at my students' fingertips. These tablets will turn student desks into a window to the world. An interactive technology lab accessible in my classroom at all times is the path to create a curriculum that continues to move forward.

The interactive tablets will benefit my students in motivation and engagement. The classroom access to the tablets will also address various learning styles and appeal to the multimedia senses. The key is in this step forward, the technology will expose my students to the real world. My students will one day be required to utilize multimedia whether it is to further their education or in their jobs. The tablets will empower students as designers and creators of their own productions and presentations.

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Current Innovation

I use technology in my classroom on a daily basis. Whether we watch a video clip that applies to literature or we use a template to create resumes for book characters, I expose my students daily to different aspects of technology. My projector and the 10 computers are utilized on a regular basis. Depending on my lesson plan for the day, the purpose of my technology may be for taking notes, researching, brainstorming, typing and editing papers, or creating presentations using various software. I also have a mimio tool that assists in taking notes, highlighting key concepts on web pages, creating a graphic organizer and creating warm-up activities for review. Due to my large class sizes, we have to rotate and share computers. When I plan an activity where the entire class needs a computer, I schedule a computer lab. There are days when I need to have my class working in a lab and it is unavailable.

As I continue to create assignments and activities that revolve around technology, I find students are far more engaged when these are designed as interactive. When students are allowed to become the researchers and designers, they take the lead in their own learning. This forces them to use tools for analyzing the world, accessing and interpreting information, and reproducing what they know and learn. The more ownership for learning that is placed upon students, the more active they will become in the learning process.

I am on an integrated disciplinary team that includes language arts, history, math and science. Technology is a powerful tool that pulls these subjects together. As the language arts teacher, I find that it intertwines most naturally with history. Several of my units include literature from time periods and historical fiction. I use media clips, maps, and images to produce presentations and background information for the students. Unfortunately, it isn't long before the limitations of my technology are reached.

As a literature teacher, I promote reading both inside and outside of my classroom. One of my students' favorite assignments is a book project. Within this they are encouraged to use technology to create book trailers, power points, movies or other forms of presentation using technology. Both my students and I are frustrated by the limit of technology we encounter in creating these. Many students won't use the computers at school because of the digital divide between school and home. Socio-economically we have the haves and the have nots. In a school of population of 723 students with a free and reduced lunch percentage that reaches 51%, there are students who don't even have access to computers or the internet from home. On the other hand, there are students who are used to a level of technology that isn't necessarily available in Middleton Middle School's technology. Despite these technological hurdles, my students create amazing presentations. Out of all the projects and assignments, my book project has a turn in rate of 92%. This is the project students are most likely to complete each trimester for my class. I can only imagine what the ability of ThinkPad Tablets would do to enhance my book project assignment. Spring boarding off of technology, I believe my unmotivated students would be interested to complete work and create projects.

I can envision how the ThinkPad Tablets could completely change my classroom environment. Since these tablets are based on the same technology used on media devices students already own such as iPods or smart phones, I believe the transition and excitement to utilize the tablets will improve learning and retention for all my students. The tablets will raise my student's level of engagement and motivation. The more learning experiences that I can create and find for my students that are interactive, the higher the level of expectation and excitement will climb in my classroom. According to an online article, *Tablets in the classroom – a potential tool for better education* Posted: 25 Jul 2011, "Whether being used by students for taking notes, or used by a teacher to get points across more easily, tablets in the classroom work. Imagine replacing 5-6 heavy text books with one tablet. Or listening to a lecture on tape while diagrams and notes are re-drawn on the screen. We always look to the future and ask "what's next?" but the technology that we have right now can help create better, smarter and more informed students with greater ambition. The tool to do this is available right now. All we need to do is implement it across the globe." Implementing tablets in my classroom brings the globe to my students. We will push beyond the walls that contain us and look beyond our window to the world.

Project Narrative

Project Description

Project Beyond will empower students through exposing them to the world outside of what they know. Many of the kids have never left Idaho, never seen the ocean, walked in the Redwoods, viewed historical artifacts or stood in our nation's capitol. Technology can transport kids to places they've never been and allow virtual experiences of history and life in other corners of the world. As my students continue through their education and into the work force, technology will continue to advance. Utilizing the technology that ThinkPad Tablets can provide will foster higher level thinking and life-long skills needed for the future.

One of the most important aspects of this project and of acquiring life-long skills is working and collaborating with others. This project will allow for students to work closely together and develop valuable collaborative skills. My students will be paired with a tablet and a partner. In my classroom I use a concept called an elbow partner. Students will share a tablet with their elbow partner. Partnering students in this manner with technology also allows for greater differentiation as well as students assisting each other for peer teaching.

The tablet will recreate anticipatory sets for my classroom. There are numerous free applications which I will download and use to work on students' skills. There is power in exposing students to concepts and review through multi-sensory means. Many of these apps will focus on skills that students are expected to master for their standardized ISAT test. Reinforcing these skills through multi-media and interactive learning will help my students have the skills and confidence to tackle the language and reading ISATS. Here are just some of the apps I may use to focus on language skills: Vocab Builder, Standard English Grammar Grill, Advanced English Grammar Test, and Brain Blocks. These will build student skills such as vocabulary, grammar, conventions in sentences, identifying types of sentences, and recognizing antonyms and synonyms.

As we move throughout the school year from unit to unit, the ThinkPad Tablets will be an incredible tool of integration. One of my units that pairs with history is the study of the Salem Witch Trials. Within this unit, we read a piece of historical fiction written by Kathryn Lasky called, *Beyond the Burning Time*. This is a difficult read for the students and I am excited that the tablets can allow for the world of Salem, Massachusetts to enter my classroom. I found an app called Salem, MA that will bring my students HD pictures of the city including Museums, Parks, points of interest as well dozens of videos that can be streamed right from within the app. With the use of the tablets, the students will grasp a deeper understanding of the time period and the events that surround the witch trial. As a culminating activity, students will use the tablet with their partner to create a newspaper from the times of the Salem Witch Trials.

My hardbound books of *Beyond the Burning Time* are falling apart after years of use. Every day during the unit, students and I tape pages in the book and hope we can make it one more day. With the ThinkPad Tablets, books falling apart will no longer be an issue. Students will be able to read this book and countless others with the preloaded app the tablet comes preloaded with of the Kindle for Android. With the Kindle app, the world of literature will be open to my students. There are so many books available to help me reach my goal of focusing on differentiation for individual units. In addition, text, short stories and poetry will become interactive at our fingertips. The Kindle app is just one of countless apps that will help bring access of literature to my students at no or minimal cost. This will promote literature circles in my classroom, partner pair and share reads. When students are this involved in their readings, they in turn become writers, another major focus in my 8th grade classroom.

The ThinkPad Tablets have numerous tools that will improve my students' writing. The tablets will allow students to use graphic organization apps to begin the writing process and editing apps that will assist in polishing their pieces for presentation. Interactive learning research shows that more information is processed and retained by taking notes on apps like the preloaded MyScriptNotes or Evernote. My students will have the tools needed to take their writing to the next level.

Another aspect of my project is for students to be creators and designers. The ThinkPad tablets will revolutionize technology in my classroom granting students these abilities. One of my favorite books we read during the year is *Tuesdays With Morrie*. In this unit we look at the "Pursuit of Happiness" and what "change" really means. As a culminating activity for my project I would like students to create a

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photo essay of a change that they would like to see for the world. The social media aspect of this essay is powerful and the technology will allow students the freedom and creativity to design amazing presentations.

In the spirit of *Tuesdays With Morrie*, my class visits a local elderly care center called The Cottages of Middleton. My students interact with elderly residents there on a weekly basis. This is another production piece of my project. My students will take pictures and video and create a Cottages Collage of their time spent there. This collage will include journaling about students' experiences at the Cottages as well as poems about the elderly and quotes or advice from the residents. The experience at The Cottages of Middleton is priceless for my students and the ThinkPad Tablets will give us an incredible tool for documenting and preserving our time spent there.

Throughout the year, I am certain that the projects and interactivities will continue to widen. I plan to have the students offer ideas and help create presentations that will continue to meet the goals outlined in the narrative above. These are just some examples of how I will take my classroom beyond our limitations and what we are currently doing with technology.

Project team members

Through my current knowledge of technology and the continued support of the Technology Department, as well as others, I feel confident that Project Beyond will be successful. "Sarah Thompson's ability and drive to make technology an opportunity rather than a hindrance will prove that implementing a project like this a success from the ground up" (Mike Cozakos, Director of Technology, Middleton School District).

Mike's committed involvement with technology in the community over the past 10 years has allowed him to push our district forward and advance in areas of technology it otherwise may not have. He is supportive and dedicated to getting teachers what they need to improve their delivery of instruction. Mike and his team will assist, maintain and offer tech support in all areas for the tablets. Additional administrative support comes from my principal, Molly Burger. Her continued positive influence on our students and staff makes us feel we like we can climb mountains. Molly will support me on the administrative end as well as open gateways to my professional development. Mike Cozakos, his team, and my principal, Molly Burger, all shape the path for these products and ideas.

In addition, my interdisciplinary team of teachers including Mrs. Shelly Henrikson (science), Mr. Alex Maxwell (history), and Mr. Glenn Smith (math), will be part of my project team. They will support me and my interactive endeavors and assist in bringing more integration between our subjects. My students and I will be a team in learning, discovering and exploring the tablets. Together we will push our limits of technology and move beyond the classroom as we know it. The Lenovo slogan is about "doing." My students are doers and together we will immerse ourselves in this technology.

Feasibility

Some may think that this product is new to the technology industry or to our students, creating a steep learning curve. But in reality it isn't even close. In today's world, no technology is too new for a consumer or student to pick right up, it's just like riding a bike. These new Lenovo ThinkPad tablets are building blocks from past technology products. The key is to embrace it and let it be a collaborative team effort with my students. The majority of our students carry a touch screen cell phone or iPod with them. So the feasibility of adapting the ThinkPad Tablets will be straightforward. Again, the support of our Technology Department and relationship with Lenovo will constantly keep this project progressing.

Sustainability

Technology and sustainability together in the same sentence can be a challenge in today's world. With the vast changes in technology on an hourly basis, we sometimes feel what we buy today will be outdated tomorrow. However, in education we are masters at sustaining what we have been provided. We have technology in our school district that is 10+ years old, but we have students that utilize that technology on a daily basis. The key to sustaining the Lenovo ThinkPad Tablets is the durability of the product and the company's sustainability. Lenovo's history in the marketplace and education sector has been going on for 30+ years. In 2010, "Lenovo achieves its highest ever worldwide market share and becomes the world's fastest growing major PC manufacturer." (<http://www.lenovo.com/lenovo/us/en/history.html>) We know that Lenovo will continue to support and

produce additional apps for their tablets. Additionally, the ever growing free Android apps available and shareware on the Internet will help me sustain these tablets in my classroom.

School/District Support

Three years ago I would have read this section of the application and would have seriously hesitated from writing this grant. Our School/District support with technology was close to null. We had no support and no reliability from the school network to the end user computer. In the Fall of 2008, the district took a stance to turn our technology around. Since that adoption, we have seen leaps and bounds in the reliability, support, and advancement of technology. Now that we have the technology backbone in place, my colleagues and I are eager to add the technology tools to advance our students into the 21st Century. With that said, I constantly see our School/District and Technology Department provide us the necessities to be successful. I was around when we had to bring in our personal technology to help us in our classroom, but those days are over. In our movement forward with technology, the reality is that if we ask and it is within the Technology Department's ability to acquire, they will assist in getting what we need to improve technology in our classrooms.

Anticipated Outcomes/Impact

The outcomes for this project are exciting. I expect students to be motivated and engaged by the tablets and all the apps that are offered. My hope is that through creating an interactive classroom, missing work will decrease due to the fact that students will have the technology at their disposal to get the job done. Students will be able to be held more accountable for tracking their missing work and grades in Skyward. One of the greatest aspects of the tablets is the ability to go paperless.

I believe that by incorporating the other disciplines into language arts, it will ignite students' curiosity to explore the world around them. I anticipate amazing projects and presentations that will become models and inspire others to move beyond their limits of what they currently accomplish.

Through review with the apps on student ISAT skills, I hope for individual growth on ISAT scores as well as for proficiency to increase. As writers I foresee incredible strides forward that will enable students to embrace new possibilities and accomplishments in the written word. As readers and critics of literature, I see the opportunity to explore so many avenues of authors and worlds of words and imagination.

When other educators see the potential of engaged learning taking place, I believe this project will encourage them to step beyond their own boundaries and strive to bring technology to the forefront of their classrooms. I hope it is an outreach to the community and a bridge between differences.

Project Scope and Sequence**Goals and Objectives**

Project Beyond will create an interactive classroom environment. Through multi-media we will focus on the following goals:

- Bring technology to students' fingertips
- Allow students to be creators and designers
- Motivate and engage students with multi-media interactive assignments and activities
- Expose students to the world beyond
- Foster life-long skills to utilize technology and collaborate with others
- Differentiate individual student needs
- Encourage higher level thinking and reinforce skills/information for deeper understanding and retained learning

Date	Milestone/Event Project
January 2012	Purchase materials and set up
February 2012	Tuesdays With Morrie Unit and Photo Essay- Students create a photo essay of a change they want for the world
March/April 2012	Students create The Cottages of Middleton Collage project and video for 5-10 minutes to highlight the project and use of the tablets
May 2012	Students reflect and respond to a survey about the use of the tablets in my classroom
June/July 2012	These months will be used to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review and gather all necessary data from the tablets • transfer to a location to backup for future use • Perform a refresh of the tablets that includes necessary updates, and any upgrades
August 2012	Prepare Tablets for our new school year and load with apps for the upcoming class
September 2012	Train new classes on Tablets
October 2012	Salem Witch Trials project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour app and multi-media activities with the tablet • Create Salem newspapers using tablet Meet all grant recipient requirements before October 31 st

Evaluation Strategy

My students and I will evaluate the tablets and project in May 2012. We will respond to a survey which will include suggestions from students on the project and how to improve for the coming year. Mike Cozakos and his tech team will review the equipment with me and gather the data for transfer and future use. The tech department will be vital in reviewing project objectives and goal. Together we will move forward with experience into the coming year on how to improve and make the most of the tablets.

Budget Narrative

With extensive research, I've narrowed my choice to the Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet. This technology will offer my students a superior multimedia and educational experience. Their product line continues to provide effective, robust, and most importantly positive outcomes. The Lenovo Tablet, will not only capture my student's attention, it will allow them to have that personal window at their desks. Lenovo ThinkPad Tablets (<http://shop.lenovo.com/products/us/tablet/thinkpad>)

Why a Tablet? The Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet is Lenovo's Business-class tablet that provides best performance and durability. "Lenovo's leading-edge innovation is protected by military-spec standards for durability — meaning your Lenovo will forgive drops and spills and hot, dusty field trips." (http://www.lenovo.com/education/us/en/k12/k12_students.html) With my plans for using these tablets on a daily and hourly basis, durability will result in having these tablets around for many years.

The Lenovo tablet is a 10-inch Android-based tablet aimed for the anything, anywhere, anytime student device that stands out by providing the student a digital pen to bring their No. 2 pencil to an unlimited interactive electronic reality. Other important features that are key to helping my students succeed on a daily basis are:

- View, edit and create Microsoft Office® files with Documents to Go®. This will enable my students to manufacture papers electronically in a more productive manner.
- Take notes or make updates right into your files with digitizer pen support by using MyScript Notes Mobile that is preinstalled on the Tablets.
- More than 30 pre-loaded apps. to provide my students the resources needed to produce assignments and projects.
- Dock their tablet into a Keyboard Folio Case to easily type and/or edit assignments.
- Print directly to my classroom printer wirelessly when needed.
- The ThinkPad is protected with the pre-enabled Computrace® software. This provides a connection back to our tablets in the event it is lost, missing or stolen.
- Mini-HDMI output so the students can connect directly into my projector to show a presentation.
- Front and rear facing camera so we can easily capture and product presentations.
- Up to 8 hours battery life so we do not have to recharge the tablets during the day, only overnight.
- Each ThinkPad Tablet is protected by a one-year base warranty.

Furthermore, Middleton School District Technology Department strives for standardization throughout the district. The district IT Department recommended the Lenovo tablets. With our High School furnished with 100% Lenovo products, the ThinkPad Tablet will begin the transition making it seamless between schools. The wireless capability allows the class to be mobile throughout the district and have reliable internet access at any location, especially in my classroom.

The current scenario is that my classroom technology hinders my lesson plans and student involvement. With the project funds I will be able to change this. My long term goal spans over two years and involves two phases. Phase one, year one, the goal is a 2:1 student to tablet ratio. Phase two, year two, I will apply for the same grant to fulfill my goal of making my classroom a 1:1 ratio. With the help and support of our Technology Department, Lenovo has agreed to provide me two extra Lenovo ThinkPad Tablets if we are awarded the grant.

Security of these tablets will be important. The District/Technology Department will be providing my classroom a lockable cart that will hold and charge each one of my tablets for phase one and two.

Training through the use of professional development will be key to the success of using the ThinkPad Tablets. As I mentioned before, one of my key focuses as an educator is to keep learning. Professional development on the use of the tablets will enhance my readiness and abilities to use the tablets as a major teaching tool in my classroom. I have requested special training from Lenovo's support team to make sure that I'm prepared to provide my student's with easy adaptability to these tablets.

Budget Sheet

Materials/Supplies	Quantity	Price per Unit	Total
Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet (32 GB) (Nvidia Tegra Droid) <i>*For my students</i>	14	\$548.00	\$7,672.00
ThinkPad Tablet Folio Case <i>*For my students</i>	14	\$85.00	\$1,190.00
Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet (32 GB) (Nvidia Tegra Droid) <i>*For my use</i>	1	\$548.00	\$548.00
ThinkPad Tablet Folio Case <i>*For my use</i>	1	\$85.00	\$85.00
Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet (32 GB) <i>(Donated by Lenovo)</i>	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
ThinkPad Tablet Folio Case <i>(Donated by Lenovo)</i>	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Additional Apps from Lenovo's App Shop (will be purchased as we go throughout the school year)	1	\$500.00	\$200.00
Professional Development (To be given by Lenovo)	1	\$500.00	\$300.00
		Shipping	<i>Included in Unit Price</i>
		Grant Total	\$ 9,995.00